

*Wishing you all a very
Happy Christmas
and a
Peaceful New Year*



The next issue of the Cleveland Courier will be in February 2026

County Commissioner's Corner



New Scouts strategy 2026-2035

Headquarters are finalising our new strategy to replace Skills for Life which ends next year. The 9 year strategy will be split into 3 year action plans. The first 3 years from 2026-29 is very much based on embedding current plans such as the new team structures, digital platform and supporting volunteers to deliver great programme weekly. More information will be shared in Spring 2026.

Census 2026

Timeline and current actions

The next census will take place on 31 January 2026 and follow the timeline below:

- **Week commencing 1 December 2025** – Password emails are sent, and the census site opens.
- **31 January 2026** – The final deadline for all submissions to be made. Local deadlines will vary. Your District Lead will let you know when their deadline is.
- **14 February 2026** – The final deadline for all approvals by Lead Volunteers (the highest-level Lead Volunteer must have approved all returns in their structure by this date). The site will open, and passwords will be sent at the same time, so you can submit and approve your returns earlier if you wish. Your returns should include:
 - Current youth members in the section (young people transitioning between sections should be recorded in the section they currently attend).
 - Any young people attending that you wish to invest before the February 2026 half term.
 - Password emails will be sent to the following roles:
 - District Lead Volunteers and Chairs, Group Lead Volunteers and Chairs, 14-24 Team Leaders

Adult membership data

For 2026, adult volunteer and Scout Network data will be taken directly from My Membership – removing the need for you to collect and input this data locally. You will only need to collect and input youth membership data for all other sections and complete the questions relating to their unit.

Finally...

Thank you all for everything you have done to support Scouts in 2025. I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and New Year. See you all in 2026!



Andy



Ian's Bit's & Piece's



What a year 2026 is going to be!

Nationally we are going to be celebrating

- * The 5th birthday of the Squirrels
- * The 40th birthday of the Beavers
- * The 110th birthday of the Cubs



Headquarters have produced some activities for the Sections to do to help you celebrate and we are adding some others which you can do either individually or jointly with other Sections. It's up to you!

In 2026 we are also celebrating locally, 60 years of Friendship Camps, since it was in 1966 that the first Friendship Camp was held at Raven Gill when Scouts from Germany, Belgium, Canada, France, Jamaica and the United States of America came together to celebrate Friendship.

In the Birthday Pack coming out in the New Year you will find several activities to do linked to our Friendship Camps and International which will help our young people earn activity badges or parts of them

To celebrate all four anniversaries there will be a **County Fun Day** for all our young people in the County, from the youngest Squirrel through to our oldest Network member, on **Saturday 12th September**.

Why celebrate?

These celebrations are completely optional. However, if you do celebrate, this is a great moment to:

- Provide a feel-good factor celebrating all you've achieved together
- Strengthen links between the sections promoting progression, especially if you hold joint celebrations
- Grow – shining a spotlight on Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs and involving families and new members in your celebrations.

When can we celebrate?

Apart from the County Fun Day in September you can choose anytime from 1st January to 31st December 2026. Just choose a time that works for you and your section. You may like to celebrate in the summer outdoors and hold a party indoors in the winter months or vice-versa!

Tell us about your birthday plans

If you're planning an event to celebrate your section's birthday, then we'd love to hear about it! Let us know at dccprogrammecs@gmail.com and headquarters at support@scouts.org.uk

Happy birthday to everyone who's celebrating in 2026 and thanks for all you're doing for the young people in Cleveland!

Ian Railton - County Programme Team Lead.

New for 2026!

The Skills for Residential Experiences Weekender!

Following the recent success of our Module 38 learning we're responding to requests to combine the two days into **ONE WEEKEND**, which means we can include even more learning for new / inexperienced volunteers which will help them gain their Nights Away Permit should they wish to.

- **Where?** At Raven Gill Camp Site, Comondale, North Yorkshire
- **When?** Saturday 21st March - Sunday 22nd March
- **What will I learn?**
 - How to plan from start to finish
 - What the elements of effective administration are
 - How to choose and prepare your team
 - How to choose, use and maintain the right equipment
 - Practical skills especially for a residential experience
 - Health, happiness and safety issues
 - How to cater for large numbers
 - How to evaluate suitable venues for your young people to stay
- **.... and much, much more both in the sessions and in the breaks over the weekend!**
- **To register email:** dccprogrammecs@gmail.com.
- For more information, contact Michael Cook, County Nights Away Team Leader
clevelandscoutsnightssawayteam@gmail.com

For the learning to go ahead we must have at least 6 (SIX) participants.

CLEVELAND SCOUTS

County Climbing



Quick Review of Climbing in 2025

2025 despite some challenging conditions we have had our busiest year yet. Magnificent response from our climbing leaders ensured we completed all our bookings, though some had to climb another day due to weather.

Climbing in 2025

2023	Total Sessions	Indoors		Outdoors	
		Sessions	Numbers	Sessions	Numbers
Young People	36	19	279	16	177
2024					
Young People	38	21	395	17	164
Adults	33	20	101	13	49
2025					
Young People	49	26	343	23	223
Adults	31	17	?	14	?



The number of Young People who when climbing with the team increased, not by much but it went up again! And the total number of sessions ran increased from 71 to 80! Thank you everyone that helped make this year such a success.

2026 is just about to start and we are taking bookings for indoor and outdoor climbing sessions. If you want to climb, contact the Team on clevelandscoutclimbers@gmail.com

If you personally want to get into climbing or just help, we run training sessions throughout the year for adults, again contact: clevelandscoutclimbers@gmail.com

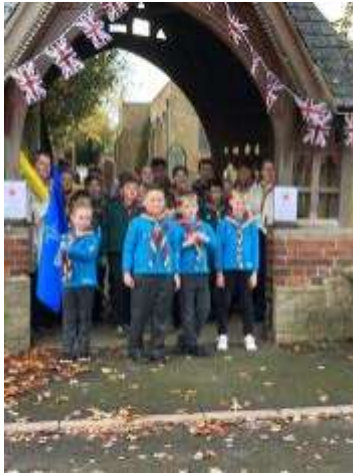
We also offer Leader Training and assessment for Scout hillwalking permits.

Take Care
Dave Yardley

Cleveland County Mountaineering Advisor
Dave Yardley
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Eaglescliffe,
STOCKTON ON TEES, TS16 9EG
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REVIEW.DOC



The Scouts of Cleveland Did Not Forget



Communicator's Badge Day

Congratulations to all those that gained their Communicators Badge and thanks to the Leaders and helpers who made it happen



Synthonia

Science camp was amazing. A weekend packed full of experiments and an brilliant museum visit. We spent five hours in Magna as there was so much hands on activities for the cubs to try and enjoy. Emily said it was her 'best day ever' and I had to agree with her. Back at site the cubs completed six different experiments learning about densities, acids, magnetism, Structures, water and their hearts. The cubs were amazing and full of enthusiasm.

Synthonia Cubs also began the skater badge and chose scooters on which to complete the badge. The cubs did a base doing the practical showing their skills and also looked at how to be safe when using their scooter. At the same time a third group completed their knot boards by tying their final two hitches and sticking them on their boards.



Around the County



Scouts UK Parliament Week

Ahead of next week's UK Parliament Week we were delighted to welcome our MP, Jonathan Brash, to 18th Hartlepool Beavers.

We had a fantastic night and all of the Beavers were fully engaged and listening.

Jonathan got everyone thinking by asking the beavers if they agreed or disagreed with some fun statements:

"Sweets are better than chocolate."

"Football is the greatest sport in the World."

The beavers then walked past the "Whip" to have their vote counted; a great introduction on how decisions are made.

40th Hartlepool

40th Hartlepool Beavers finished off their health and fitness badge by learning about health food and made fruit kebabs.



43rd Middlesbrough

Lovely treat night for the 43rd Middlesbrough Beavers. We went to Fuzzy Ed's soft play and had a great time. Massive thank you to all the beavers for your brilliant behaviour and enthusiasm, the leaders have been ran wild.

It was a very great night, BRAVO.

Lovely treat night for the 43rd Middlesbrough Beavers. We went to Fuzzy Ed's soft play and had a great time. Massive thank you to all the beavers for your brilliant behaviour and enthusiasm, the leaders have been ran wild.

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1st Saltburn

1st Saltburn's Chip Shop Survey night.



1st Fairfield

1st Fairfield visited the Food Bank



Tub2Pub'

A good project for the county to take part in or do it as a district.

Just take the empty tubs to a participating Green King pub and that is all you have to do.

Get your tubs to our pubs!

Greene King's 'Tub2Pub', a recycling campaign to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and recycle plastics, will be back in 2026!

Tub2Pub 2025 saw us collect over 240,000 tubs raising £10,916 for Macmillan Cancer Support. With your help, we can beat that record in 2026!

Tees Valley North will be taking part in this challenge again next year. If groups could collect the tubs and take them to their nearest Green King pub and collate the numbers and let me have them when the project finishes. It runs from Jan 1st to Feb 15th 2026 Last year we saved over 700 tubs from land fill and this was from only 3 groups and the district team. Just think what numbers we could save if every group took part. Lets see if we can get to 1000.

Margaret Elliott



3rd Guisbrough

3rd Guisbrough at camp and winning the District Quiz



Around the County

44th Middlesbrough

Congratulations to 3 of our Cubs who have achieved there Chief Scout silver award this week. The highest award in cubs
BRAVO



44th Middlesbrough Scouts Racing Around the World at their Board Games night.



1st Norton –on-Tees

A wonderful way to spend Bonfire night by talking about fire safety, lighting a bonfire, singing some campfire songs and toasting marshmallows!



Granny Smith's last word

People can be divided into three groups...

Those who make things happen.

Those who watch things happen.

Those who wonder what happened!

Which one of the three groups to do you fit into?



12 Days to a Scout Christmas



A Chief Scout Gold Award
 Two smelly tea towels
 Three bacon sandwiches
 Four patrol badges
 Five wet tents
 Six bags of Haribo
 Seven leather woggles
 Eight broken torches
 Nine mugs of tea
 Ten camp blankets
 Eleven Singing beavers
 Twelve camping Forms





Join the cast of...

Middlesbrough Gang Show!

A family-friendly variety show of sketches, singing and dancing

Sign-up evenings:
Saturdays 29th Nov and 6th Dec
6-7.30pm @ M'bro Scout HQ

Show week:
6th - 11th April 2026

